

Remarks

Claims 2, 4, 8-14 and 17-20 are be pending in the application. Claims 12-14 have been withdrawn from consideration. Claims 12 and 19 have been amended. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks.

Claim 12 has been amended to depend from claim 19, rather than claim 1.

Claim Rejection – 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 2, 4, 8-11 and 17-20 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable over Döhring et al. (US 2003/0138600). It is the Examiner's position that the entire composition of paragraph 30 of Döhring et al. including an amino resin and silane is interpreted as an amino-silane adhesion promoter. The Examiner contends that it would either have been obvious that the composition as set forth in paragraph 30 of Döhring et al. is either the same as that claimed or would have been obvious through routine optimization to formulate these know amino-silane materials so as to form an effective composition that effectively bonds particles to paper.

The Examiner acknowledges that there appears to be subject matter in the present specification to distinguish the references of record and suggests amending the claims to include the composition of the resin and to include method steps for making the product, including a drying step for the particles prior to distribution on the paper.

Applicant has amended claim 19 as suggested by the Examiner. Specifically, claim 19 recites that the resin comprises a melamine resin or an urea resin or a mixture of both. Claim 19 also recites an outer coating on the abrasion resistant particles formed by coating the abrasion resistant particles with a liquid consisting of the amino-silane adhesion promoter, and then drying the coated abrasion resistant particles to form the outer coating on the abrasion resistant particles, wherein the abrasion resistant particles with the outer coating thereon are applied to the first layer after drying the coated abrasion resistant particles. In view of the amendment to claim 19, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejections of claims 2, 4, 8-11 and 17-20 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a).

Applicant further requests rejoinder of withdrawn claims 12-14, as these claims include all of the limitations of claim 19, now believed to be allowable.

Conclusion

In view of the foregoing amendment and remarks, request is made for timely issuance of a notice of allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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